The Dandelion Seed’s Big Dream

Author: Joseph Anthony
Illustrator: Cris Arbo
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Ages: Pre-K-3rd grade
Reviewer: Chu Chu Wu

The Story

The little seed had a dream: to find a home that would allow it to grow and become a pretty, golden yellow flower. As the little seed travelled on the wind, many things happened to it, but it never gave up on its dream. During the journey, it got caught in the spider web, had its parachute broken by a broom, drafted to different areas of the city, landed inside a sandwich box in a trashy yard, and just waited patiently. Finally, the dandelion seed landed on a community garden that it claims as home. It grew and bloomed into a pretty yellow flower, and so its patience, courage, and determination ultimately allow its dream to be fulfilled.

Why Our Reviewer Recommends This Book

Dandelion Seed’s Big Dream is beautifully illustrated. Through the journey of the little seed, the children are able to see the appearance of the landscape in the suburban and urban areas. There are several talking points that could be used to help young children relate to the story. For example, environmental protection is one of the themes, and children can be taught that plants cannot survive without a clean and proper environment. In the story, we see people cooperating and working together as they pick up litter and remove dead plants in order to plant a community garden, the garden that the little seed finally claims as its home. The other theme is how it teaches young children that it takes patience, perseverance, and courage to make one’s dream come true. In addition, young readers can learn about the parts of the dandelion, about how seeds travel on the wind and reproduce to form new plants, and about the differences between a weed and a flower.

Classroom Strategies and Ideas

Science connection: Teachers can use this book when they talk about an assortment of popular preschool and primary themes, such as the following:

- A plant’s life cycle
- Spring and flowers
- Seeds and how they spread (by wind, insect pollinators, etc.)

Preschool and primary age children can read or listen to books about the types of seeds found from different plant forms. The teacher can take the children for a nature walk and have the children collect different types of seeds in the spring. Children can match seeds to leaves and label types of plants and the usual plant parts (root, stem, leaf, flower, seed). Children can observe how seeds’ shapes and physical structures help them to travel on the wind in order to fulfill their goal of reproduction. The teacher also can talk about the parts of the plants, weeds, and flowers. Furthermore, the teacher can use the little seed’s journey to relate to the children’s personal life experiences, talking about emotional characteristics that can help each child to reach his/her hope, goal, or dream. By focusing the students’ attention on the different landscapes pictured in the story, the teacher can talk about not littering and help the children appreciate the beautiful illustrations.

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More Classroom Strategies and Ideas for *Dandelion Seed’s Big Dream*

**Reading and writing:** After reading the story, children can write a new journey for the little seed, or a journey for a different kind of seed. This practice encourages students to use their observational skills and their imagination in order to create a new story. Younger children could use pictures and dictate sentences to the teacher.

**Art and science:** Primary age children can collect different types of seeds, observe the seeds, and illustrate the structure and the characteristics of each seed and the related plant type. Seeds also can be useful for arts and crafts. Children can predict which kind of seed will travel the furthest and find out the answer by dropping each seed sample from the air. Children can note the ecstatic aspect of how a seed moves in the air.

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